

AMENDMENTIn the Specification:

Please amend the second paragraph on page 18 as follows:

After lysis of the red blood cells, spleen cells from individual rats were cultured in media alone or restimulated *ex vivo* with 2 µg of p227Kb for 6 to 12 hours in culture media (50% RPMI 1640 and 50% alpha-MEM, 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS), 5×10^{-5} M 2β-mercaptoethanol and 1% antibiotics) containing 50 U/ml of rIL-2 (Chiron) and 3 µM monensin (Pharmingen). The p227Kb peptide is an HCV NS5a-specific CTL epitope with the amino acid sequence AQALPVWAR (SEQ ID NO:3) from the HCV NS5a protein. Splenocytes were stained according to Pharmingen's protocol for surface CD8 with peridinin-chlorophyll protein (PerCP)-conjugated anti-mouse CD8 (Pharmingen), and for intracellular IFN-γ and TNF-α with phycoerythrin (PE)-conjugated anti-mouse IFN-γ and TNF-α (Pharmingen). ~~Peridinin-chlorophyll proteins~~ Cells were analyzed on a FACScalibur. The number of events acquired was such that at least 10,000 CD8+ cells were acquired for each sample. Data files were analyzed using the CellQuest software.